

The necessity for normal standards is well illustrated in all radiographic work, and Dr. OSKAR KIRSCH has performed a valuable service in producing a monograph on the principles of the orthodiagrammatic measurements of the heart and thorax in children.⁹ He gives the results of measurements of 142 children of all ages, presenting in tables the age, height, and weight, as well as the measurements obtained, in an orthodiagram. He then analyses these results at length, and in various ways seeks to find some mathematical relationship between other measurements of the body and those of the heart. The last section of the book is concerned with this schematic representation of the size of the intrathoracic organs, and the subject is discussed fully, with a large bibliography. Twelve orthodiagrams are included to illustrate various types of children and the size of their hearts.

The second number of the proceedings of the German Society for the Study of the Circulation¹⁰ contains discussions on a variety of subjects, and in this respect it resembles closely the first number, which was reviewed in the *British Medical Journal* of January 5th, 1929. The most attractive contributions are those on oedema, for they take the form of essays and penetrate deeply into the problem.

Dr. DIETEL's inaugural address on enuresis¹¹ gives a full and well-written summary of the many varieties of causes to which this distressing complaint may be due in different cases, and adds a practical account of the various forms of treatment prescribed for it or found useful in its management. The book is an encouraging one to read, as the author holds that, in a large percentage of cases, it may be cured, particularly if its etiology can be set on a sound basis in any special instance. He gives a full account of Cathelin's method of treatment by epidural injections in the sacral region, using normal saline solution to the amount of 5 or 10 c.cm.; he himself has treated 32 cases by this method, curing 17 and leaving only 4 unimproved. The book should be read by all medical men who have cases of enuresis to deal with.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929,¹² by Mr. W. E. WHYTE, solicitor, is a handbook designed for the use of those concerned with the administration of this Act. It deals fully with the administrative and financial changes brought about by the Act, first, by a narrative outline of the provisions, and, secondly, by a reprint of the Act, with full notes and references on each section. Appendices and an ample index complete a very useful and authoritative guide to the complexities of the new measure.

⁹ *Grundlagen der orthodiagrammatischen Herzgrößen- und Thoraxbreitenbeurteilung im Kindesalter*. Von Dr. Oskar Kirsch. Berlin: S. Karger. 1929. (Sup. roy. 8vo, pp. 110; 12 figures. M.7.20.)

¹⁰ *Verhandlungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kreislaufforschung*. II. Tagung. Herausgegeben von Professor Dr. Bruno Kisch. Dresden und Leipzig: T. Steinkopff. 1929. (Med. 8vo, pp. xv + 177; 41 figures, 1 plate. R.M.15.)

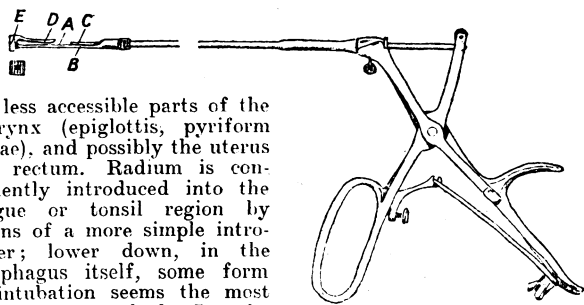
¹¹ *Das Bettürissen*. Von Dr. med. Friedrich Dietel. München: J. F. Lehmann. 1929. (6 x 9, pp. 85; 6 figures. M.4.50.)

¹² *The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1929*. By W. E. Whyte, O.B.E., Solicitor. Edinburgh and Glasgow: W. Hodge and Co., Ltd. 1929. (Roy. 8vo, pp. viii + 332. 25s. net.)

PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES.

A RADIUM NEEDLE INTRODUCER.

Dr. D. A. CROW (Hove) writes: Messrs. Allen and Hanburys Ltd. have constructed a radium needle introducer to my design, and improved on details which I suggested. Its scope is somewhat limited to the application of radium to growths in



the less accessible parts of the pharynx (epiglottis, pyriform fossae), and possibly the uterus and rectum. Radium is conveniently introduced into the tongue or tonsil region by means of a more simple introducer; lower down, in the oesophagus itself, some form of intubation seems the most appropriate method. In the middle region of the lower pharynx, however, I have felt the need of an instrument which can be used through a direct laryngoscope, and the one suggested has proved slender enough for this purpose; moreover, it affords a very accurate aim.

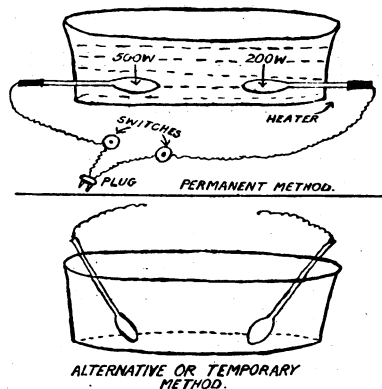
The silk-threaded needle lies in a groove, A, in the shaft, B. It is held down by a spring, D, and propelled by a movable bar, C, through a countersunk opening in the square-ended, rough-surfaced foot-piece, E, which is held firmly on to the surface of

the growth, all movements being slow and gentle to avoid damage to the silk thread.

The same firm has also made at my suggestion a chromium-plated head mirror, which has the advantage over the silvered glass mirror of being light and non-breakable.

A SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC STERILIZER.

Dr. E. M. R. FRAZER (Burton-on-Trent) writes: Electric sterilizers are expensive to buy, and I have devised one from the following simple and cheap instrument, using one fish-kettle type sterilizer, about 16 in. by 6 in. by 3½ in., and



costing about 12s. 6d. to 15s. Two electric "immersion" heaters of suitable voltage are employed, one of 500 watts loading, the other 200 watts; they cost about 4s. 9d. each. These heaters are similar in shape and size to an ordinary tablespoon. An electrician will solder a heater into each end of the sterilizer, incorporating a switch in each lead, and also a suitable plug or adapter for connexion to supply.

The vessel is filled with water and both heaters are switched on; the water boils in about seven minutes. The 500-watt heater is then switched off, the low-power one being sufficient to keep the water boiling.

The advantages are obvious—namely, the low initial cost (about 26s.); very rapid boiling; and the low consumption of current. One precaution is necessary: the heaters must be under water when in use, before the current is switched on, and the vessel must never be allowed to boil dry. Soldering is not necessary, since if it is desired to use the heaters for any other vessel they may simply be placed in the sterilizer before use. The sketches make the idea clear.

HIGH-TENSION TRANSFORMERS FOR X-RAY WORK.

We have often commented on the amount of well-condensed and useful information given in the catalogues of reputable manufacturers. This is true of the latest catalogue to reach us from Watson and Sons (Electro-Medical) Limited, of Sunic House, Parker Street, Kingsway, London. The body of the catalogue consists of an illustrated description of the various types of high-tension transformers built by this firm, but it is prefaced by an admirable account of the principle underlying such transformers and their construction and control. High-tension transformers, which convert the supply current received from the mains at a pressure of 100-250 volts to a current at a pressure of the order of 50,000 to 200,000 volts required to operate the x-ray tube, have contributed greatly to simplification of x-ray work by eliminating the vagaries and uncertainties of the induction coil. The methods of rectification, testing, and rating are set out, as well as the forms of rating prescribed in the British standard specification introduced by the British Engineering Standards Association, to which the transformers listed in this catalogue conform.

SOME PALATABLE PREPARATIONS.

We have received from Messrs. Wyleys Limited (Coventry) a number of recent preparations. Elixir ephedrine co. is a palatable liquid preparation containing 1/4 grain ephedrine per fluid drachm, and also contains various tinctures. Aromatic cascara is a preparation of cascara sagrada almost devoid of bitterness. Elixir bromo-valerian co. is a palatable preparation containing bromides and various tinctures. The same firm also sends samples of ruscol, an ointment containing an organic compound of bismuth and birch tar, which is recommended for a variety of skin diseases.

GLYCERIN OF THYMOL PASTILLES.

Compound glycerin of thymol pastilles (Messrs. Boots) are a new variety of antiseptic pastille. Their action is chiefly due to the presence of a powerful new antiseptic (amyl-meta-cresol), which has a Rideal-Walker coefficient of 250. Each pastille contains the equivalent of 2½ grains of pure phenol. In spite of this powerful antiseptic content the pastilles have a pleasant flavour and are agreeable to use.